Medal of Honor

Program Executive Office Soldier
Honors Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith

THE FACE OF FREEDOM

PEO Soldier would like to recognize the Soldiers of the United States Army, whose courage, dedication, and warrior ethos are the bedrock of this institution and a cornerstone of this great nation. That warrior ethos is embodied in these simple principles:

I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade behind.

Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith personified this ethos. On April 4, 2003, Sergeant First Class Smith—without regard for his own life, under withering enemy fire, and in defense of his Soldiers—engaged some 100 enemy soldiers with hand grenades, anti-tank weapons, and a .50 caliber machine gun. Sergeant First Class Smith was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on April 4, 2005. The words that follow are from those who knew him and from the medal citation.

For more information on Sergeant First Class Smith, see
http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/profile/index.html

"Army to the core...meticulous in planning and execution... Everything just had to be done to an impeccable standard."
—LTC Thomas Smith, 11th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division

"Disciplined, passionate about his soldiers… Amongst his peers—noncommissioned officers—they knew that there was no fooling around, they knew this guy was serious business, and a pro."
—CSM Gary Croker, 11th Engineer Battalion

"You look at him, you thought: That's what a soldier should look like."
—2LT Brian Borkowski, B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion

"His family remembered that as far back as they could recall, when anyone would ask what he wanted to do as an adult, he always said, 'I want to be a Soldier, get married, and have kids.'"
—from the profile on army.mil/medalofhonor

"Sergeant First Class Smith's extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Third Infantry Division 'Rock of the Marne,' and the United States Army."
—from the medal citation

U.S. ARMY

TEAM SOLDIER